

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12760 241024Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /069 W

----- 101991

R 240933Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1803

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12760

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JA, VN, PFOR

SUBJ: JAPANESE ABASSADOR COMMENTS ON SRV POLICIES AND LIFE IN HANOI

SUMMARY: IN CONSULTATIONS AT FONOFF, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO SRV
TAKAKI HASEGAWA STATED THAT SRV LEADERSHIP IS PRESENTLY PREOCCUPIED
WITH RECONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS. HASEGAWA BELIEVED HANOI WOULD CONTINUE
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ASEAN NATIONS. HE OBSERVED THAT
SRV IS TAKING CARE TO BE POLITE AND CORRECT IN DEALINGS WITH PRC
AND HAD DETECTED SOME LESSENING IN VIETNAMESE CRITICISM OF THE US.
HASEGAWA FOUND SRV OFFICIALS TO HAVE DISTORTED UNDERSTANDING OF JAPAN
AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO THIER RELIANCE
ON LEFTIST CHANNELS OF INFORMATION SUCH AS JCP. JAPANESE DIPLOMATS
HAVE MADE NO PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THEIR LIVING OR WORKING CONDI-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 12760 241024Z

TIONS IN HANOI. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF FIRST SE ASIA DIVDIR KENICHI ITO PROVIDED EMBOFF WITH FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND IMPRESSIONS OF AMBASSADOR HASEGAWA REGARDING SRV POLICIES AND LIFE IN HANOI.

2. HASEGAWA'S SAID THAT THE SRV LEADERSHIP IS ALMOST TOTALLY PRE-OCCUPIED WITH PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION, A VIEW SHARED BY HANOI DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

3. HASEGAWA DID NOT BELIEVE RECENT VIETNAMESE SHIFT TOWARDS MORE AMICABLE DEALINGS WITH ASEAN NATIONS IS TEMPORARY TACTICAL MOVE, BUT RATHER REPRESENTS MAJOR NEW "POLICY LINE"--CAREFULLY DELIBERATED AND THEN QUICKLY IMPLEMENTED BY HANOI. ITO ADDED THAT MOST FONOFF ANALYSTS AGREE WITH HASEGAWA'S VIEW THAT THE SRV WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ASEAN MEMBERS. ITO WAS CAREFUL TO NOTE THAT MANY PROBLEMS REMAIN BETWEEN THE SRV AND ASEAN, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS "TREMENDOUS DISTRUST AND IGNORANCE," AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE FRICTION BETWEEN THE SRV AND CERTAIN ASEAN COUNTRIES AT THE COLOMBO NAM SUMMIT. NEVERTHELESS, ITO CONCLUDED, "DESPITE MANY ZIG-ZAGS," SRV-ASEAN RELATIONS WILL GRADUALLY IMPROVE.

4. CHARACTERIZING SRV-USSR RELATIONS AS "EXTREMELY CLOSE" AND THOSE WITH THE PRC AS "COMPARATIVELY COOL," HASEGAWA OBSERVED THAT HANOI IS TAKING PAINS TO BE CORRECT AND POLITE IN ITS DEALINGS WITH THE CHINESE. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE NOTED THAT VIETNAMESE PRESS TREATMENT OF THE PARACELS/SPRATLY ISSUE IS, IN HIS JUDGMENT, NEITHER INFLAMMATORY NOR EXPLICITLY ANTI-PRC IN NATURE, BUT A CAREFUL ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN A COMPLICATED TERRITORIAL QUESTION TO THE MASSES.

5. HASEGAWA NOTED THAT WHILE HANOI'S BASIC ANIMOSITY TOWARDS THE US HAS NOT CHANGED, HE HAS RECENTLY DETECTED SOME "SLIGHT TONING DOWN" OF CRITICISM OF THE US. HE SAID THAT THERE IS A GENERAL VIEW AMONG BOTH VIETNAMESE AND DIPLOMATS IN HANOI THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE US IS INEVITABLE.

6. HASEGAWA REPORTED THAT HE HAS DISCOVERED CURIOUS DISTORTIONS IN SRV OFFICIALS' PERCEPTIONS OF JAPAN AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE FOUND MANY OFFICIALS TO BE "TOTALLY IGNORANT" OF BASIC POLITICAL FACTS ABOUT JAPAN--SUCH AS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND DIET OR NATURE OF JAPANESE POLITICAL PARTIES. NEVERTHELESS, THESE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 12760 241024Z

SAME OFFICIALS OCCASIONALLY SURPRISED HASEGAWA WITH REFERENCES TO OBSCURE JAPANESE LABOR DISPUTES OR TO THE CIRCULATION FIGURES OF JAPANESE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS. HASEGAWA ATTRIBUTED THIS TO HANOI'S LEFTIST CHANNELS OF INFORMATION FROM JAPAN--PARTICULARLY THOSE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JCP RESIDENT IN HANOI. ITO NOTED PARENTHETICALLY THAT PRESENCE OF JCP REPRESENTATIVES IN HANOI HAS BEEN PARTIALLY EMBARRASSMENT FOR JAPANESE DIPLOMATS. THEY OCCUPY MORE AND BETTER OFFICE SPACE THAN THE JAPANESE EMBASSY AND PREVIOUSLY TOOK

PRECEDENCE OVER JAPANESE CHARGE AT DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS. SINCE HASEGAWA'S ARRIVAL, HOWEVER, JCP REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN RANKED WITH VIETNAMESE PARTY OFFICIALS AT SUCH FUNCTIONS.

7. HASEGAWA FOUND HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST IN AMERICAN ELECTIONS IN HANOI, BUT AGAIN VIETNAMESE DISCUSSIONS ARE COLORED BY CURIOUS MIXTURE OF SPECIFIC FACTS AND LEFTIST INTERPRETATION. NO EXAMPLES WERE PROVIDED.

8. HASEGAWA REPORTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING CONDITIONS FOR NON-COMMUNIST DIPLOMATS IN HANOI. HE HAS MADE NO PROGRESS IN OBTAINING BETTER LIVING QUARTERS OR OFFICES. TRAVEL REMAINS TIGHTLY RESTRICTED. ALL OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY STAFF HAVE LEFT THEIR FAMILIES IN JAPAN. ITO NOTED THAT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH FONOFF ON THESE MATTERS, HASEGAWA LONGINGLY RECALLS HIS PRECEDING ASSIGNMENT AS CONSUL GENERAL IN HONOLULU.
SHOESMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO12760
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760322-1200
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760823/aaaaatuu.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <11 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE ABASSADOR COMMENTS ON SRV POLICIES AND LIFE IN HANOI SUMMARY: IN CONSULTATIONS AT FONOFF, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO SRV TAKAKI HASEGAWA STATED THAT SRV LEADERSHIP IS PRES
TAGS: PFOR, JA, VN, (HASEGAWA, TAKAKI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006